

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00227 051906Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5554

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SUGAR DATA

REF: STATE 066941

FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REFTEL:

1. TOTAL PRODUCTION COST FOR SSGAR IN 1976 WAS U. S. 13.23 CENTS PER POUND; 1975 COST WAS U. S. 16.24 CENTS PER POUND. FIGURES INCLUDE COST OF PURCHASING CANE FROM FARMERS. INDUSTRY OFFICIALS ESTIMATE VARIABLE COSTS, INCLUDING PURCHASE OF CANE, TO BE 75 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WITH REMAINING 25 PERCENT FIXED. SEE NOTE 2 BELOW.
2. PRICE PAID TO CANE GROWERS IN 1976 WAS U. S. 9.05 CENTS PER POUND. MECHANISM FOR PAYING FARMERS IS REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH CANE GROWERS RECEIVE 65 PERCENT OF NET PROCEEDS OF SALE OF SUGAR PRODUCTS.
3. RETAIL CONSUMER PRICES:
 - A) REFINED SUGAR - U. S. 52.5 CENTS PER POUND (IMPORTED CASTER SUGAR);

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- B) MOST COMMON SUGAR (UNREFINED) - U. S. 6.5 CENTS PER POUND FOR WHITE (WHITENED FOR LOCAL MARKET THROUGH CHEMICAL PROCESS DEVELOPED LOCALLY AND KNOWN AS "TADALODURA PROCESS") AND U. S. 5.5 CENTS PER POUND FOR BROWN SUGAR. CONSUMER PRICES ARE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED DUE TO GOB PRICE CONTROLS; INDUSTRIAL USERS PAY U. S. 11.16 CENTS PER POUND (EX FACTORY) FOR WHITE SUGAR, U. S. 10.32 CENTS FOR BROWN.

4. AVERAGE UNIT VALUE OF 1976 EXPORT SHIPMENTS - U. S. 14.02 CENTS PER POUND; U. S. 21.04 CENTS IN 1975.

5. LATEST PRICE RECEIVED FGR PREFERENTIAL SHIPMENTS - U. S. 13.76 CENTS PER POUND (EEC, 1976).

NOTES: (1) ALL COSTS AND PRICES ARE "FREE ALONGSIDE SHIP" (FAS), EXCEPT IN ITEM NO. 3 (RETAIL CONSUMER PRICES).

(2) SINCE BELIZE SUGAR INDUSTRIES, LTD. (BSI), BELIZE'S ONLY SUGAR PRODUCER, INCLUDES CANE PURCHASES IN ITS FIGURING OF PRODUCTION COSTS, COSTS PER POUND WILL VARY WIDELY FROM YEAR TO YEAR AS NET PROCEEDS (AND THUS PAYMENTS TO FARMERS) FLUCTUATE WITH INTERNATIONAL SUGAR PRICES. BSI THEREFORE BELIEVES AVERAGE PRODUCTION COST IS MEANINGLESS IN BELIZEAN CONTEXT AND HAS INSTEAD FURNISHED FIGURES FOR TWO YEARS -- 1975, WHICH WAS EXCELLENT YEAR FOR INDUSTRY, AND 1976, WHICH COMPANY REGARDS AS MORE REPRESENTATIVE.
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Message Attributes

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